

For Immediate Release

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May 9, 2007

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(Washington, D.C.) - Congressman Albio Sires (NJ-13) voted today for H.R. 1684, the Homeland Security Authorization Act, which authorizes funding for the operations of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). H.R. 1684 destines \$39.8 billion dollars to support first responders, strengthen management, and improve technology, cybersecurity, and bioterrorism preparedness.

"The security of our nation must be at the top of our priority list and this Congress has taken appropriate action to finally have this bill signed into law," said Congressman Sires. "The Department of Homeland Security must be able to count on the resources to keep its operations running and to keep up with technology and cybersecurity innovations. We must also remain vigilant to ensure the safety of New Jersey residents."

The DHS Authorization Act establishes a Directorate for Policy to improve policymaking and promote long-term planning. It protects federal dollars by including provisions that reform contracting and improve oversight. This bill also addresses department rivalry by improving information sharing and guarantees that the agency moves in the right direction with regard to science, technology, cybersecurity, and bioterrorism preparedness.

"The people of our district lived through the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. They know how important it is to have sufficient personnel and tested procedures in place to prevent and if necessary respond to a devastating emergency. Our duty is to protect them by giving the Department of Homeland Security the funding it needs to operate, and by giving our first responders the tools they need, as well as the confidence in knowing that their representatives are looking out for them," said Congressman Sires.